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FILED
Superior Court of California
County of Los Angeles

SEP. 10 2019

Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk
By Felipe Rojas Deputy
Felipe Rojas

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

LIZETTE AREVALO, FRANCISCO
OROZCO, and MONICA RINCON,

Plaintiffs,

v.

COMPTON UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT,

Defendant.

Case No. 19STCV14808

~~[PROPOSED]~~ JUDGMENT

ASSIGNED FOR ALL PURPOSES TO
JUDGE RANDOLPH M. HAMMOCK, DEPT.
47

Trial Date: Not Set
Complaint Filed: April 29, 2019

1 Plaintiffs Lizette Arevalo, Francisco Orozco and Monica Rincon ("Plaintiffs"), on the
2 one hand, and Defendant Compton Unified School District (the "District" or "Defendant"), on the
3 other hand, have stipulated to entry of judgment, as reflected in the Stipulation for Settlement filed

4 ~~Previously filed 2019~~. Plaintiffs and Defendant may be referred to hereinafter as the "Parties."

5 Pursuant to the Stipulation, and in accordance with Code of Civil Procedure section
6 664.6, the Court hereby enters judgment as follows:

7 RECITALS

8 1. Defendant is a unified school district organized and existing under the laws of
9 the State of California. The legislative body of the District is a seven-member elected Board of
10 Trustees.

11 2. The District currently elects all seven of its Trustees on a staggered basis via
12 an at-large election such that every two years the District's voters elect either three or four Trustees.
13 Such elections have historically been held in November of odd-numbered years, and as such are not
14 concurrent with statewide elections (which as of 2019 are now held in March and November of
15 even-numbered years, in light of Elections Code section 1001), but are scheduled to move to even
16 numbered years commencing in 2022.

17 3. By letter dated October 5, 2018, and received by the District on or about
18 October 9, 2018, counsel for Plaintiffs alleged that the District's current at-large system for electing
19 Trustees violates the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 (hereinafter the "CVRA"), Elections
20 Code §§ 14025 *et seq.*

21 4. On November 26, 2018, the District, by vote of its Board of Trustees, adopted
22 Resolution No. 18/19-26, announcing an intention to change the District's election system from at-
23 large election to trustee-area¹ elections. That resolution further provided that the trustee-area
24 boundaries would be determined and adopted after a public process including public notice, hearings
25 and input that would be "completed by the end of calendar-year 2019 with implementation
26 thereafter."

27
28 ¹ The term "trustee-area" is synonymous with the term "district-based" in this Judgment.

1 5. Previously, on December 20, 2017, pursuant to Elections Code §§ 14050 *et*
2 *seq.*, the District adopted Resolution No. 17/18-1220, in which it resolved to change the time of
3 future elections to November of even-numbered years, to be held concurrent with statewide general
4 elections. That Resolution specified that the new time for elections would be implemented after the
5 scheduled November 2021 election, that the first elections under the new schedule would be held in
6 November 2022, and that the terms of Trustees elected at-large in November 2017 and November
7 2019 would be extended by one year until the first scheduled election in even-numbered years after
8 the expiration of the terms to which they had been elected – *i.e.*, until their successors are elected in
9 November of 2022 and 2024, respectively.

10 6. The combined result of these two Resolutions adopted by the District is that,
11 as the elections schedule is presently constituted, some Trustees elected under the at-large election
12 system would continue to serve until 2022 and the remainder until 2024.

13 7. By letter dated November 28, 2018, to the District, Plaintiffs demanded that
14 the District implement its intended change to a trustee-area election system at the next Board of
15 Trustees election, and not hold another at-large election for the Board in November 2019 as
16 scheduled.

17 8. On or about April 29, 2019, Plaintiff filed the above-captioned action alleging
18 that the District's election system violates the CVRA, and requesting relief in the form of an
19 injunction against further at-large elections and the imposition of a district-based election system.

20 9. The Court, having reviewed the Stipulation, the evidence and argument in
21 support thereof, and any objections that have been made following posting of the proposed
22 judgment, orders as follows:

23 A. The Court finds a violation of Elections Code sections 14027 and 14028, and
24 exercises its authority to implement appropriate remedies, including the imposition of district-based
25 elections, that are tailored to remedy the violation.

26 B. The election presently set for November 2019 is hereby cancelled, and shall
27 instead be held at the next regularly scheduled statewide election (set for March 2020). During the
28 pendency of the March 2020 election, and until such time as successors are elected and qualify, the

1 incumbent Trustees whose terms were set to expire in 2019 shall remain in office.

2 C. The next succeeding regularly scheduled election after that to be held in
3 March 2020 shall be held at the first regularly scheduled statewide election in 2022 (set for March
4 2022). The term of the Board members who were elected in 2017 and whose terms were initially
5 scheduled to end in 2021 shall be extended to the date successors are elected and qualify following
6 certification of the March 2022 election. This includes the term of any Board member selected or
7 elected pursuant to Education Code section 5091 due to any vacancy in seats of Board members
8 elected in 2017.

9 D. Effective commencing with the March 2020 election, the District's at-large
10 election system for Board of Trustees shall be replaced with a trustee-area election process. All
11 Board of Trustees elections at that time and thereafter shall be held concurrent with the statewide
12 election in March of even-numbered years using a trustee-area (also known as "district-area") based
13 election system. With respect to trustee-area elections, the candidate with the greatest number of
14 votes (i.e., a plurality) shall be deemed elected.

15 E. In the trustee-area election to be held in March 2020 for the District, three
16 trustee-area Trustees shall be elected, each to a four-year term. In the trustee-area election to be
17 held in March 2022 for the District, four trustee-area Trustees shall be elected, each to a four-year
18 term. To be eligible for office, a Trustee candidate must reside within the applicable trustee-area for
19 which he/she is seeking to be elected, and in the election for the trustee-area only voters residing
20 within that trustee-area shall be eligible to vote.

21 F. The District shall establish a map ("Electoral District Map"), describing the
22 seven discrete trustee-area boundaries pursuant to which the district-based elections shall be
23 conducted. After the publication of results of the 2020 Census, the District may reapportion as
24 required by law but shall retain a district-based election system in any such reapportionment.

25 G. The Electoral District Map shall be designed in accordance with applicable
26 state and federal laws, including Elections Code § 10010.

27 H. Defendant shall take all reasonable steps to secure required approvals for, and
28 implementation of, the trustee-area elections including, but not limited to, seeking, advocating for,


1 and securing actions of the Los Angeles County Board of Education, the Los Angeles County
2 Registrar-Recorder, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, and any other governmental
3 boards or agencies whose approvals or implementing actions are necessary to carry out the
4 provisions of this Stipulation.

5 I. Plaintiffs are determined to be the prevailing party in the above-captioned
6 action, and are entitled to recover their reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and expenses, pursuant to
7 the CVRA, Elections Code § 14030. The following fees and costs have been agreed to and awarded:
8 \$200,000 in fees and costs which has deemed to have been based on a blended rate of \$600/hr. for .
9 legal fees, and \$300/hr. for paralegal fees. This sum includes time for Plaintiffs' counsel to advise
10 Plaintiffs post-judgment, but does not include time that may be spent after a claim is filed by
11 Plaintiffs to dispute the Electoral District Map (*i.e.*, does not include time after the date such a claim
12 (action) is filed).

13 J. This Court shall retain jurisdiction over Plaintiffs and the District to enforce
14 the terms of this Stipulation pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 664.6. In the event a dispute
15 arises between the Parties regarding the Electoral District Map, any claim based on the dispute shall
16 be filed as a separate action and shall not be encompassed within the enforcement of this Stipulation,
17 though the action will be considered a related case by this Court.

18 IT IS SO ORDERED:

19
20 Dated: 9-10-19



21
22
23 Judge of the Superior Court

24 RANDOLPH M. HAMMOCK